

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-31. (Canceled)

32. (New) A method for producing a belt for an image forming apparatus, comprising:
applying a release layer containing a fluoropolymer onto a die surface of a shaping die;
baking said release layer;
applying an elastic layer over a surface of said release layer;
baking said elastic layer;
applying a supporting layer containing heat-resistant synthetic resin over a surface of said elastic layer;
baking said supporting layer;
removing unevenness of said supporting layer; and
releasing said release layer, said elastic layer and said supporting layer from said die surface.

33. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein
removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises polishing said supporting layer.

34. (New) The method according to claim 33, further comprising:
during or after releasing said release layer, said elastic layer and said supporting layer from said die surface, turning said release layer, said elastic layer and said supporting layer inside out as one body.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein
the belt for the image forming apparatus is one of a fixing belt and a transferring belt.

36. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing from said supporting layer a portion having a thickness of approximately 10 μm .

37. (New) The method according to claim 36, wherein removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

38. (New) The method according to claim 36, wherein said supporting layer is to be supported on a roller by being in contact with the roller.

39. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein said supporting layer has a surface roughness that is less than a surface roughness of the support roller, and removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

40. (New) The method according to claim 39, wherein baking said supporting layer and removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing unevenness of said supporting layer and then baking said supporting layer.

41. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein the belt for the image forming apparatus is one of a fixing belt and a transferring belt.

42. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing from said supporting layer a portion having a thickness of approximately 10 μm .

43. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

44. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein said supporting layer is to be supported on a roller by being in contact with the roller.

45. (New) The method according to claim 44, wherein said supporting layer has a surface roughness that is less than a surface roughness of the support roller, and removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

46. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein baking said supporting layer and removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing unevenness of said supporting layer and then baking said supporting layer.

47. (New) The method according to claim 32, further comprising:
during or after releasing said release layer, said elastic layer and said supporting layer from said die surface, turning said release layer, said elastic layer and said supporting layer inside out as one body.

48. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein the belt for the image forming apparatus is one of a fixing belt and a transferring belt.

49. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing from said supporting layer a portion having a thickness of approximately 10 μm .

50. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

51. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein said supporting layer is to be supported on a roller by being in contact with the roller.

52. (New) The method according to claim 51, wherein said supporting layer has a surface roughness that is less than a surface roughness of the support roller, and removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

53. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein baking said supporting layer and removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing unevenness of said supporting layer and then baking said supporting layer.

54. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the belt for the image forming apparatus is one of a fixing belt and a transferring belt.

55. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing from said supporting layer a portion having a thickness of approximately 10 μm .

56. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

57. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing from said supporting layer a portion having a thickness of approximately 10 μm .

58. (New) The method according to claim 57, wherein removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

59. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

60. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein said supporting layer is to be supported on a roller by being in contact with the roller.

61. (New) The method according to claim 60, wherein
said supporting layer has a surface roughness that is less than a surface roughness of the
support roller, and
removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises removing said unevenness from
said supporting layer such that said supporting layer has a surface roughness of approximately 5
 μm - 15 μm in ten-point average surface roughness.

62. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein
baking said supporting layer and removing unevenness of said supporting layer comprises
removing unevenness of said supporting layer and then baking said supporting layer.